

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 3, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-178)

TO: Jay Marcotte
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program – Pellicer Barrier Removal

Project No: 2002-025-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement-Fishways, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 6.14 Vegetation Stabilization-Critical Area Planting, 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization-Brush/Weed Management, 7.3 Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation During Stream Crossing Construction, 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures, 7.6 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion.

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the North Yakima Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement project on Cowiche Creek in Yakima County, Washington with the North Yakima Conservation District as part of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program. The goal of this project is to enhance migratory fish access and productivity in the Cowiche Creek watershed. Project components of the Pellicer Barrier Removal project will include: removal of existing bridge, re-grading streambed and streambanks, installation of hardened rock toe at road crossing, construction of five Rosgen-style non-porous cross vanes above and below the old road crossing location, installation of new longer bridge span, and re-vegetation and stabilization of banks.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mike Tobin with the North Yakima Conservation District (July 27, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area include mid-Columbia River steelhead, Columbia River bull trout, bald eagle and Ute ladies' tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a Biological Assessment was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on July 2, 2004. BPA determined that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout, bald eagle and Ute ladies' tresses. USFWS concurred with these findings on July 28, 2004. BPA also determined that ESA consultation for steelhead and Essential Fish Habitat consultation for chinook salmon were covered under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program Programmatic Biological Opinion with NOAA Fisheries (August 9, 2004). All applicable terms and conditions contained in the Programmatic Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly. Project design was approved by Bryan Nordlund with NOAA Fisheries (August 9, 2004).

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource investigation of the Pellicer project site was completed by Central Washington University. The investigation included archival research and a pedestrian survey of the areas proposed for disturbance. As a result of this investigation, no prehistoric or historic resources were identified. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings on August 27, 2004. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work should be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Pellicer Barrier Removal project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Pellicer Barrier Removal project. The North Yakima Conservation District is sponsoring this project as part of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP). YTAHP is a consortium of local irrigators and conservation districts, as well as WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Consultation on this project has taken place with Yakima County, Yakima Indian Nation, local landowners, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Ecology, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, public involvement will take place as part of the WA State Environmental Policy Act process.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 9-3-04

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 9-3-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
HIP BO Authorization and Consistency Form, August 30, 2004
USFWS Letter of Concurrence, July 28, 2004
OR SHPO Letter of Concurrence, August 27, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Stephen Kropp – WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Mike Tobin – North Yakima Conservation District